

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE LONGHORNS (COL.: CERAMBYCIDAE) OF FLINTSHIRE

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FLINTSHIRE IS THE smallest county in the Welsh mainland; it is also the most densely populated part of North Wales. Its coastline, largely industrial, faces the River Dee estuary and includes a narrow tongue of land along the Wirral Peninsula on the opposite shore. The hinterland is very hilly and mostly rural.

Prior to its absorption, together with adjacent counties into the administrative region of Clwyd in the 1970s, Flintshire also included a small, peculiar enclave, known as "Part of Flint", sandwiched between the counties of Denbigh and Salop, but in fact within the borders of the latter: upon regaining its county status in 1996, it went to Denbigh; otherwise, Flintshire's boundaries are much as they were prior to 1970.

That said, Flintshire seems to have been woefully neglected where the longicorn Coleoptera are concerned. Records are few and compare unfavourably with those of its neighbouring Welsh counties. Indeed, before 1947 nothing on the county's Longhorns appears to have been published, save a much later reference by Sir Eric Ansorge to the occurrence of *Prionus coriarius* in Flintshire as long ago as 1908.

The present catalogue of cerambycids is the shortest one in the Principality, and suggests, not so much a paucity of these most attractive beetles as, perhaps, a lack of visiting coleopterists. Whatever the reasons, the number of species found up to the present is less than a dozen strong and so these records have been assembled *pour encourager les autres!*

The current list, detailed as far as is known, is as follows:

CERAMBYCIDAE

PRIONINAE

Prionus coriarius (L.) – "Flintshire, 1908", noted by Ansorge some 60 years later but without further information (*vide text supra*); Tremeirchion, 8.ix.1968 (Mrs S. Evans); Bodfari, 1970 (W.O. & S.O. Conney).

Again, these last two captures lack more precise particulars.

ASEMINAE (SPONDYLINAE)

Aseum striatum (L.) – Cefn Bychan, circa 1947 and also in 1949 – not uncommon in cut Scots Pine logs (M.G. Fraser); Pantybearth, 14.v.1949 (M.G. Fraser).

Aseum striatum (L.) v. *agreste* F. – Cefn Bychan, 1949 (M.G. Fraser). Found with the above; Pantybearth, 15.v.1949 – similarly captured (M.G. Fraser).

LEPTURINAE

Rhagium bifasciatum F. – Cefn Bychan, 29.iii.1946 – common (G. deC. Fraser); Cefn Bychan, viii.1947 – very common; numerous larvae, pupae and adults were found in fallen Scots Pine logs. A large number of pupae was reared, but no varietal forms were produced (E.A.J. Duffy, M.G. Fraser & R.R.U-K.); Bodfari, 1962 (L.W. Hardwick); Pen-y-maes, 12.iv.1987 (G. Griffiths); Hoseley, 1993 – Several in old pine logs (B. Formstone).

- R. mordax* (Deg.) – Cefn Bychan, 29.iii.1946 (G. deC. Fraser) and vii.1946 – common on dogroses (M.G. Fraser).
- Stenocorus meridianus* (L.) v. *chrysogaster* Schrank – Cefn Bychan, vii.1947 – a dead female under bark (M.G. Fraser).
- Grammoptera ruficornis* (F.) – Cefn Bychan, 6.vii.1946 (G. deC. Fraser). Common on flowers; Ddôl Uchaf NR, 1972, 1.vii.1984 & 6.vii.1989 (the last – Mrs M.J. Morgan & H.N. Michaelis).
- Strangalia maculata* (Poda) – Bodfari, prior to 1962 (W.O. Conney); Overton, 30.vi.1990, several (B. Formstone).
- S. quadrifasciata* (L.) – Bettisfield, 24.vi.1957, in coll. University College of North Wales; Fenn's Moss, 8.vii.1992 (B. Formstone).

CERAMBYCINAE

- Clytus arietis* (L.) – Cefn Bychan, 4.v.1944, vii.1946 and 1947 - on beech logs (M. G. Fraser); Ddôl Uchaf NR, 1972 (*anon.*) and 21.vi.1980 (Mrs M. J. Morgan); Caergwele, 18.v.1992 (M. Newstead); Bryn tirior Hall, 1993 (M. Newstead); Bangor-on-Dee, 1991-1995 (B. Formstone).

LAMIINAE

- Pogonocherus hispidulus* (Pill.& Mitt.) – Talacre Warren, 24.iv.1993 (S. McWilliam). This is noted in the records kept by the Liverpool Museum.

Finally, it may be of interest to state that a specimen of *Aromia moschata* (L.) was captured sometime before 1963 near Whixall, Salop, within a mile of the Flintshire border. That suggests that this species may possibly occur in Flintshire.

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